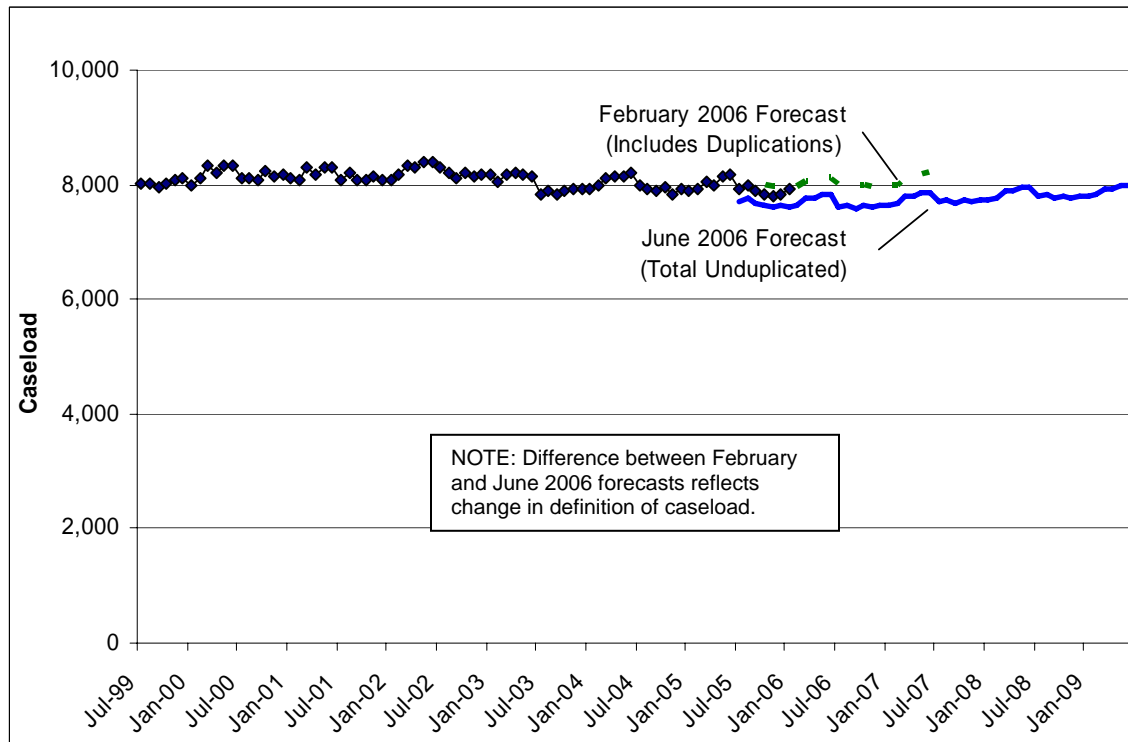


Foster Care



Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Feb-06 Forecast	Jun-06 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2006	7,994	7,708	-286	-3.7%
2007	8,036	7,696	-340	-4.4%
2008		7,794		
2009		7,845		

NOTE: Jun06 FC includes a shift from duplicated to unduplicated caseload count.

The definition and basis of the Total Foster Care caseload was adjusted for the June 2006 forecast to make it better represent the total licensed foster care caseload. Prior to the June 2006 forecast, the total foster care caseload was defined as the sum of the Family Foster Home (FFH), Behavioral Rehabilitation Service (BRS) and Receiving Home (RH) forecasts. These three caseloads actually reflect the number of children for whom a payment from a specific budget (FFH, BRS and RH) was made during a calendar month. Since a given child can generate payments from more than one category (e.g., by moving from a receiving home to a foster family home), the sum of the three caseloads includes an undetermined number of "duplications." Beginning with the current forecast, the total foster care caseload will be determined by the number of children in foster care (FFH, BRS, and RH) as of the end of the calendar month, eliminating duplications.

While in the long run this change should provide a better picture of the number of children in licensed foster care, the shift in definition results in a technical decrease in the total foster care caseload of about 300 clients (i.e., by the elimination of duplications). It should be noted that this reflects a change in how the clients are counted as opposed to an actual reduction in clients.

Tracking the February 2006 Forecast

	Feb-06 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Oct-05	7,976	7,835	-141	-1.8%
Nov-05	7,941	7,789	-152	-1.9%
Dec-05	7,957	7,814	-142	-1.8%
Jan-06	7,943	7,928	-15	-0.2%

Note: Feb06 FC and Actuals refer to total caseload including duplications.

- Actuals are tracking, on average, -1.4 percent (112 clients) below the November forecast for the past four months.

Foster Care Total Fiscal Year Caseload Change

Fiscal Year	Caseload Change	Percent Change		Caseload
2002-2003	27	0.3%	Actual	7,880
2003-2004	-167	-2.1%		7,713
2004-2005	56	0.7%		7,769
2005-2006	-61	-0.8%	Forecast	7,708
2006-2007	-12	-0.2%		7,696
2007-2008	98	1.3%		7,794
2008-2009	51	0.7%		7,845

Note: Unduplicated Total Foster Care caseload.

The Foster Care caseload is expected to grow slightly (averaging 1.0 percent per year) over the 2007-09 Biennium.

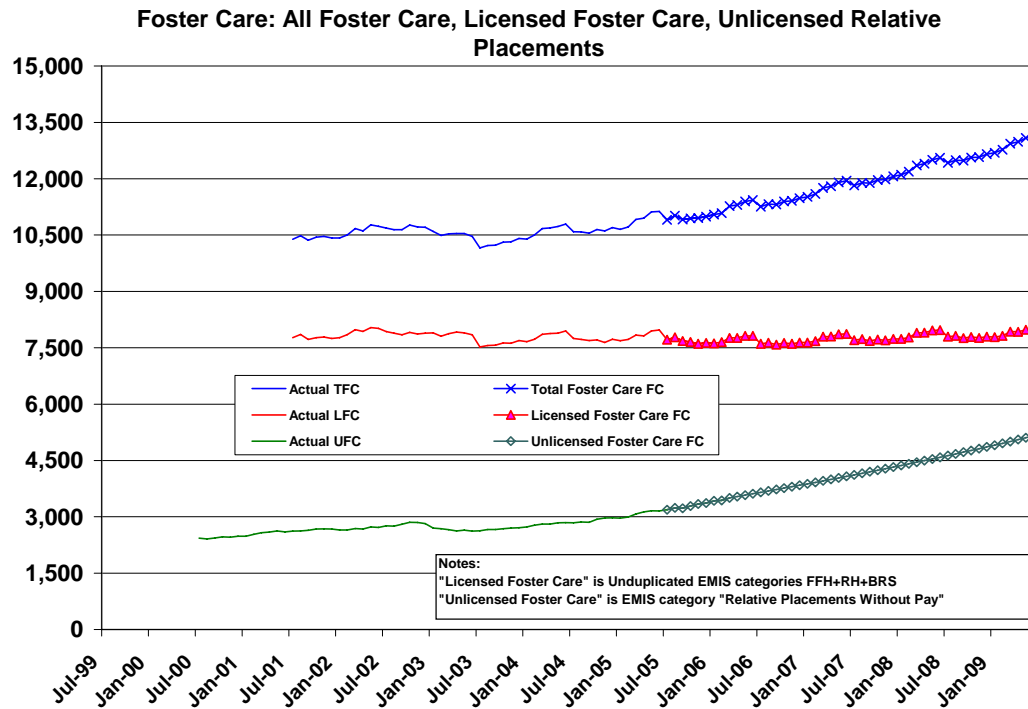
The three components of the Foster Care caseload are expected to change as follows:

- The Foster Family Homes caseload is expected to grow, on average, by 2.6 percent per year for the 2007-09 Biennium.
- The Receiving Homes caseload is expected to remain constant at about 310 for the 2007-09 Biennium.
- The Behavioral Rehabilitation Services caseload is expected to remain constant at about 1,000 for the 2007-09 Biennium.
- The Total Foster Care caseload was adjusted for the expected impacts of legislation expected to add 279 to the caseload by the end of FY2009.
 - ESSB5922, passed by the 2004-05 Legislature and effective January 2007, expanded the definition of child abuse and neglect to address parental substance abuse. The impact of this legislation is expected to add 129 clients by June 2008.
 - 2SHB2002, passed by the 2005-06 Legislature and effective July 2006, extended foster care support on a pilot basis for clients between age 18 and 21 attending college or high school. The impact of this legislation is expected to add 50 clients by the end of FY2007, 100 in FY2008 and 150 in FY2009.

"Unlicensed Foster Care"

The "Total Unduplicated Foster Care" caseload (7,618 children in January 2006) forecasted by the CFC consists of foster care clients in licensed foster care placements receiving state financial assistance. This financial assistance includes a monthly stipend, coverage of client medical care, and a variety of additional services such as psychological assessment and treatment, clothing, child care and respite care. To be licensed, foster care placements and care-givers must meet a

variety of licensing requirements including criminal background checks, facility standards, and training requirements. The Total Unduplicated Foster care caseload is supported by funds budgeted under the Family Foster Home, Group Care/Behavioral Rehabilitative Services, and Receiving Home budget category.



A second large group of "foster" children (3,425 children in January 2006) reside with relatives in unlicensed foster homes. These placements are often referred to as "Relative Placements Without Payments (RPWOP)," "Unlicensed Kinship Care," or "Unlicensed Foster Care (UFC)." These children are subjects of "open" Children's Administration supervision and are subject to a mandatory caseworker home visit at least once every 30 days. They may reside with the relative under a formal court order or through an informal arrangement with the child's legal guardian. The foster parents are eligible to receive the same types of financial assistance as those on the licensed foster care caseload with the exception of the monthly stipend. In addition, they are eligible to receive a TANF "child only" monthly grant of about \$320 per child per month.

Following legislative directives, the department has been increasing its reliance on kinship care with the result that the (unlicensed) Relative Placement Without Payments Foster Care caseload monthly growth rate has been increasing while the Licensed Foster Care caseload has remained stable. For example, in FY2005, the Unlicensed Foster Care caseload increased an average of 26 cases per month; the Licensed Foster Care caseload increased an average of 6 cases per month in the same period.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to the Foster Care forecast are relatively low. This caseload has been relatively stable over time and should remain so in the absence of changes to program eligibility.